

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4778

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1558

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KING JUAN CARLOS I)

SUBJECT: KING'S VISIT TO US

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH KING FEBRUARY 28 AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA FEBRUARY 29. I STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF GIVING PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR ALBA, FOLLOWING MARCH 2 ANNOUNCEMENT, AS TO KING'S DESIRES FOR VISIT SO THAT US CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CAN START MEANINGFUL PLANNING FOR VISIT. I EXPLAINED THAT PROGRAM FOR VISIT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON WITH SPANISH EMBASSY.

2. BOTH KING AND AREILZA EXPRESSED IRRITATION TO ME THAT ALBA HAD EMPLOYED O'CONNOR AND CO. TO WORK ON VISIT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF MADRID. BOTH TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT WAYS ARE BEING SOUGHT TO EASE ALBA OUT OF WASHINGTON AS GRACEFULLY, BUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS MAY BE DONE NEXT MONTH AND AREILZA TOLD ME THAT IF THIS CAN BE DONE, HE HOPED WE COULD GRANT AGREEMENT FOR A NEW AMBASSADOR PROMPTLY. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR TREATY AMBASSADOR JUAN JOSE ROVIRA, WILL BE NOMINATED FOR WASHINGTON WHEN THE TIME COMES. ETA WOULD BE THEN HOPEFULLY BE IN APRIL.

3. BOTH KING AREILZA DISCUSSED WITH ME IN GENERAL TERMS POSSIBLE PROGRAM FOR ROYAL VISIT, BUT SINCE THERE IS NOT YET COMPLETE MEETINGS OF MINDS, I SHALL NOT RE-
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PORT AT THIS TIME. ONLY SPECIFIC POINT WHICH EMERGED

ON WHICH THERE IS FULL AGREEMENT IS THAT KING AND AREILZA
ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO A "BALL" IN NEW YORK AND BELIEVE
A LARGE BANQUET WOULD BE MORE FITTING.

4. AREILZA PROMISED THAT WHEN HE RETURNS AT END OF
THE WEEK FROM UK AND DENMARK, HE WOULD FOCUS SPECIFICALLY
ON PROGRAM FOR ROYAL VISIT.
STABLER

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